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Seventeen Governors in U.S. Climate Alliance Mark One-Year Anniversary with New Wave of Climate Initiatives to Accelerate Action

--Innovative Interstate Projects Include Storing Carbon in our Landscapes, Tackling ‘Super Pollutants’, Expanding Clean Energy Financing, and Softening the Impact of Federal Solar Tariffs--

--Alliance States Continue to Be on Track to Meet U.S. Paris Agreement Target, Reducing Emissions More Than 25% by 2025--

On the one-year anniversary of President Trump announcement that he intends to withdraw the U.S. from the global Paris Agreement, a bipartisan coalition of 17 governors committed to upholding the Paris Agreement through the U.S. Climate Alliance are announcing a new wave of initiatives to accelerate and scale up climate action. The Alliance represents 40 percent of the U.S. population and a \$9 trillion economy, greater than the third largest country in the world.

In the last year alone, Alliance states have added or announced [XXGW] of additional renewable energy capacity, deployed [XX] of zero-emission vehicles and adopted innovative policies to accelerate the transition to clean energy. Governors are pledging to go even further in 2018. New initiatives over the next year include:

Comment [JC1]: Text to be revised once all state-policy factsheets are submitted

- **Reducing Super Pollutants:** 15 Alliance states announce their commitment to reduce short-lived climate pollutants (SLCP) and are issuing a challenge for others to follow their lead. The Alliance plans to release an action plan at the Global Climate Action Summit in September 2018 to drive down these highly-polluting emissions by phasing down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), capturing and putting waste methane to work, and addressing super emitters.
- **Mobilizing Financing for Climate Projects:** U.S. Climate Alliance states are collaborating on a [Green Banking Initiative](#) to expand sustainable infrastructure financing opportunities and help advance new Green Banks. As a part of this initiative, NY Green Bank is raising at least \$1 billion from the private sector to deploy nationally as well as providing resources and capacity that can be leveraged by newly-established Green Banks.
- **Grid Modernization:** Alliance states are working together on a Grid Modernization [Initiative](#) to expand the adoption of innovative approaches to utility planning that can meet electricity demand while avoiding build-out of traditional electric transmission and distribution infrastructure. These “non-wires alternatives” are driving deployment of distributed clean

DRAFT

energy resources and reducing emissions while saving customers billions of dollars. States are also collaborating on an [initiative](#) to reduce the costs of solar projects.

- **Renewable Energy:** States are collaborating on a [Solar Soft Costs Initiative](#) to reduce the costs of solar projects. Building on best practices pioneered by Alliance states, the initiative is developing implementation resources for states and local governments to drive down the non-hardware “soft costs” of solar, leading to improving economics to customers and greater deployment while also helping to offset the impact of the federal solar tariffs established in January 2018.
- **Appliance Efficiency Standards:** States are working together to advance energy efficiency standards for consumer products and appliances to save Americans billions in avoided energy costs and cut greenhouse gas emissions. States are stepping up in response to the federal government stalling its own appliance standards activity.
- **Building Resilient Communities and Infrastructure:** The Alliance, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and the National Council on Science and the Environment, is working to build greater resiliency of its communities, including by fundamentally changing the way infrastructure is designed and procured. Alliance States are analyzing their state’s infrastructure risks now and in the future from vulnerability to floods, wildfire, and drought to inform mitigation and adaptation planning.
- **Increasing Carbon Storage in our Landscapes:** Alliance states are pursuing opportunities to increase carbon storage in forests, farms, and ecosystems, and are launching a new initiative to identify best practices for land conservation, management and restoration to develop a carbon storage policy framework for implementation. This work is supported through a strategic partnership with The Nature Conservancy, American Forests, World Resources Institute, American Farmland Trust, the Trust for Public Land, Coalition on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases and the Doris Duke Charitable Trust.
- **Deploying Clean Transportation:** Alliance states launched initiatives to deploy zero-emissions vehicles, expand and improve mass transit and active transportation choices, and implement other measures for moving towards zero-emission vehicle miles travelled.

The Alliance has made substantial progress toward the implementation of its commitment to uphold the Paris Agreement. Sixteen states and Puerto Rico continue to be on track to collectively meet their share of the U.S. climate target to reduce emissions by 26-28% from 2005 levels by 2025. Alliance states are reducing emissions more drastically than the rest of the country while expanding per capita economic output twice as fast (15% Alliance emissions reductions compared to 10% national reductions from 2005-2015). Alliance states are home to [1.6 million clean energy jobs](#), nearly half of the U.S. total.

Governors from the U.S. Climate Alliance plan to attend the Global Climate Action Summit in September, when thousands of global leaders convene to strategize about accelerating and scaling up emissions reductions. The Alliance will provide an update on 2018 initiatives at the Summit.

Comment [JC2]: Currently conducting analysis of the 2018 Energy and Employment Report to revise figures.

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Colorado: "The work of the Climate Alliance goes to show that states will lead when the federal government won't," said Governor John Hickenlooper. "Colorado is proud to contribute to these efforts as we recognize the critical importance of creating a clean energy future."

Hawai'i: "As we witnessed on Kaua'i, Hawai'i is experiencing first-hand the consequences of climate change and the importance of working together as a community to be resilient. We are leading the country in pursuing a 100% renewable power supply to reduce our contribution to global warming and we embrace the Paris agreement, which we committed to by law last year. Working with my fellow governors is an opportunity to amplify our voices to the world that Americans care about climate change and that we must take action now," said Gov. David Y. Ige.

New Jersey: "Contrary to the viewpoint of the federal government, climate change is real and it is impacting the future of every state in the union," said New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy. "As we mark the first anniversary of the U.S. Climate Alliance, New Jersey is proud to be making critical investments in clean energy initiatives, including offshore wind, solar, and energy storage, that will benefit our residents, our neighbors and our environment while growing the Garden State's economy."

Washington: "Across the country, clean, renewable energy has become an unstoppable force. People want clean air, a healthy environment, and the jobs and investments that come with building the next generation economy, and nothing the federal government chooses to do can change that," said Governor Jay Inslee. "States, cities, and businesses are all stepping up. The 17 governors of the U.S. Climate Alliance are absolutely dedicated to ensuring the promise of a clean energy future is fulfilled for all."

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US Climate Alliance

The [[HYPERLINK "https://www.usclimatealliance.org/"](https://www.usclimatealliance.org/)] is a bipartisan coalition of seventeen governors committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

California | Colorado | Connecticut | Delaware | Hawaii | Maryland | Massachusetts | Minnesota |
New Jersey | New York | North Carolina | Oregon | Puerto Rico | Rhode Island | Vermont | Virginia |
Washington